

**IN UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**SHERMAN DIVISION**

**DATE: 4/14/2025**

**CHIEF DISTRICT JUDGE  
Amos L. Mazzant, III**

**COURT REPORTER: Chris Bickham  
COURTROOM DEPUTY: Keary Conrad**

United States of America	
v.	4:22CR162
Edward Walsh Vaughan (1) Hadi Akkad (2) Gina Ellingsen (6)	

<b>ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF</b>	<b>ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT</b>
AUSAs Anand Varadarajan, Heather Rattan, GR Jackson, Lesley Brooks	John D. Cline, Joseph D. Brown, Samuel Ford (1)  David B. Gerger, Catherine Stanley, Heather Peterson, Jeff Kearney (2)  Marlo Pfister Cadeddu (6)

On this day, came the parties by their attorneys and the following proceedings were held in Sherman, TX:

<b>TIME:</b>	<b>MINUTES: Jury Trial Day 9</b>
8:48 a.m.	Court in session. Court notes appearance of the parties and counsel.
8:49 a.m.	Court addresses Defendant Ellingson's counsel and Defendant Ellingson. The Court grants Defendant's Motion for Judgment of Acquittal (Dkt. #374) and acquits defendant.
8:50 a.m.	Court and Parties address jury charge. No objections by the Government. Vaughan's counsel, John Cline covers objections on charge for all Defendants.
8:58 a.m.	Court hears from Akkad's counsel, David Gerger regarding sealed filing (Dkt. #395) and provides Court with flash drive to go with that document.
	Akkad's counsel, David Gerger indicates they will move for the admission of Defendant's Exhibit 631. Government objects to Defendant's trial exhibit 631. Government will be providing a full copy.
9:02 a.m.	Government requests instruction to the jury and in the charge regarding Ellingsen's acquittal. Government provides language. No objection by the Government.
9:04 a.m.	Court will allow 90 minutes for closing argument. 45 minutes per side for each Defendant.
9:08 a.m.	Jury seated. Court provides instruction regarding Defendant Ellingson.

TIME:	MINUTES: Jury Trial Day 9
9:09 a.m.	Defendant's Exhibit 631, subject to redactions. Government objects.
9:09 a.m.	Defendant's Exhibit 548 and 628. No objection. Admitted.
9:09 a.m.	Vaughan's Counsel, Samuel Ford calls Ryan Hicks. Witness placed under oath. Counsel Ford begins direct examination.
9:13 a.m.	Counsel Samuel Ford offers Defendant's Exhibit 39. Objection to contents on hearsay.
9:13 a.m.	Bench conference.
9:15 a.m.	Objection overruled. Defendant's Exhibit 39 is admitted.
9:24 a.m.	Akkad's counsel, David Gerger questions witness Ryan Hicks.
9:26 a.m.	AUSA Roque-Jackson begins cross examination.
9:30 a.m.	Akkad's counsel, David Gerger questions witness Ryan Hicks.
9:32 a.m.	AUSA Roque-Jackson follow up question.
9:32 a.m.	Witness excused.
9:33 a.m.	Defendant Vaughan rests. Defendant Akkad rests. No rebuttal. Government and both Defendants close.
9:36 a.m.	Jury excused.
9:36 a.m.	Government objects to Defendant Exhibit 631. Government agrees to redacted version. Defendant Exhibit 631 is admitted.
9:38 a.m.	Court hears from AUSA Rattan regarding limine for closing. Court hears from Defendant's counsel.
10:07 a.m.	Court re-convened. Jury seated.
10:08 a.m.	AUSA Anand Varadarajan begins initial closing argument.
11:05 a.m.	Vaughan's counsel, John Cline closing argument.
11:41 a.m.	Vaughan's counsel, Joe Brown closing argument.
11:50 a.m.	Akkad's counsel, Jeff Kearney closing argument.
12:30 p.m.	AUSA Lesley Brooks concludes closing argument.
1:01 p.m.	Jury released for lunch.

TIME:	MINUTES: Jury Trial Day 9
1:02 p.m.	Court hears from Vaughan's counsel, John Cline regarding Government Exhibit 245 objection under 1006 and 403 as an improper summary. Defendant objects to argumentative. Court overrules Defendant's objection. Defendants renew motion for acquittal. Court overrules motion.
1:04 p.m.	Court recess for lunch.
2:03 p.m.	Court re-convened. Jury seated
2:05 p.m.	Court reads preliminary instructions.
2:36 p.m.	Defendant Vaughan's counsel re-urges objections to instructions. Court overrules.
2:37 p.m.	Court recess pending note or verdict.
4:47 p.m.	Court re-convenes. Court has received note number #1 regarding the foreperson. Court has received note #2. Parties agree to response. Court will return note to jury.
4:51 p.m.	Court adjourned.

DAVID O'TOOLE, CLERK

BY: Keary Conrad  
Courtroom Deputy Clerk